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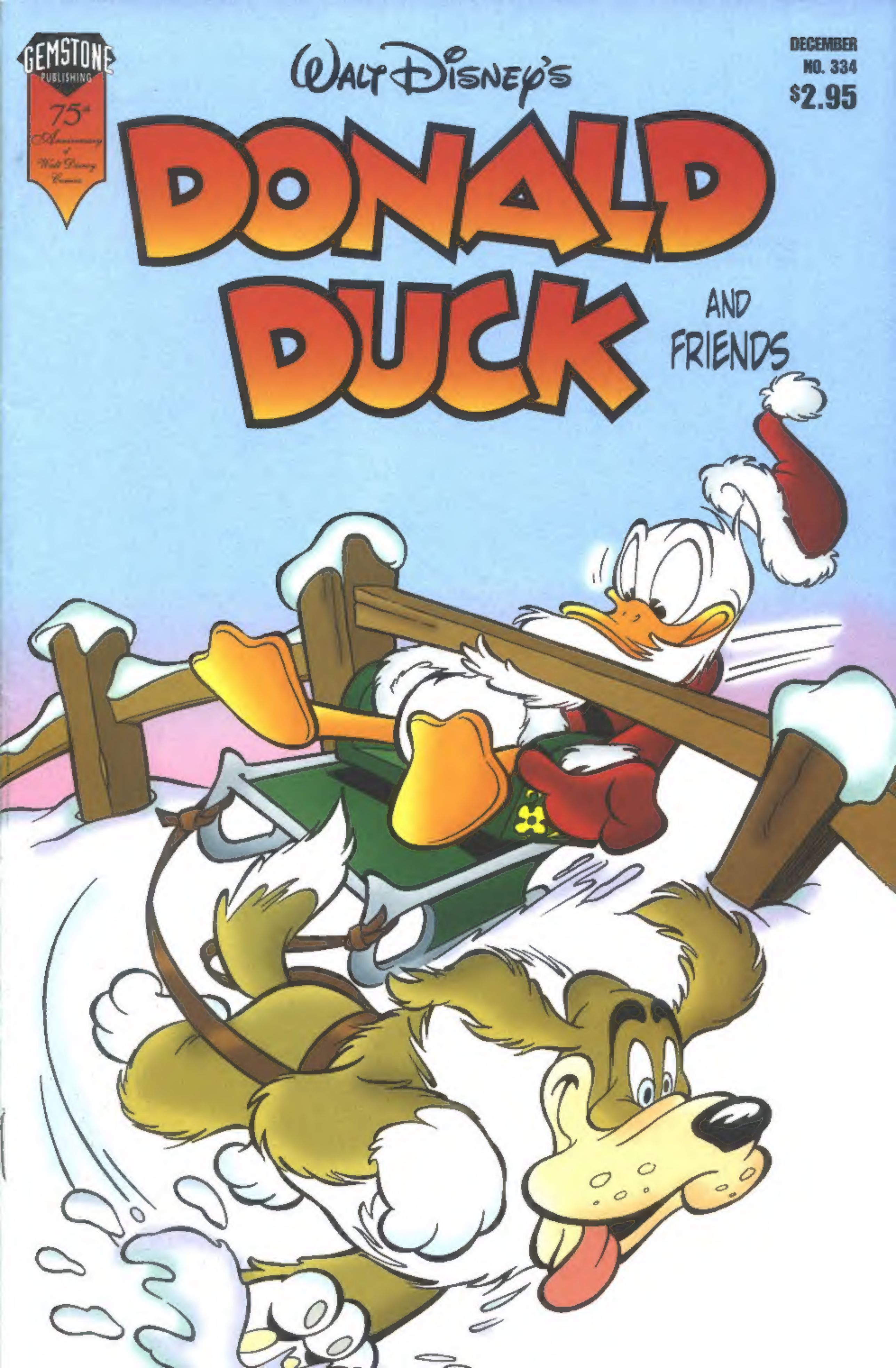
WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS



DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

The many of you who have clamored for another tale featuring Lars Jensen's quirky Easter Bunny should enjoy this month's "Santa's Helpers," in which said Bunny teams up with Donald to fill in for Santa Claus. Ha! Who says Gemstone isn't sensitive to our readers' desires? As you can see, after requests for more Easter Bunny stories, we immediately got to work on a new one. Well, okay, it was already produced in Europe. But we chose to print it! And we printed it as quickly as we could so you'd have it in your hands as soon as possible. Oh, all right, it's a Christmas story so this is when we *had* to print it. But we care! We listen!

Moving on, I'd like to call your attention to our lead feature this month, "Santa's Stormy Visit." This is one of a series of legendary Christmas stories that Carl Barks produced from 1943 to 1949 to be given away at Firestone tire stores. All of these pamphlet-style comic books are rare collectibles in their original form and the 1946 edition, from which our present story is gleaned, is no exception. Note that "Mickey's Christmas Trees," by Don Gunn, appearing in this month's *Mickey Mouse and Friends* 283, also appeared in the 1946 Firestone give-away. So taken together, *DD&F* and *MM&F* this month reprint almost the entire 1946 Firestone giveaway, so for a mere six bucks you can own the stories that would set you back more than $800 in their original printings, in near mint condition, on the collectors' market.

I would be remiss if I didn't ask you to keep Gemstone's great specials and one-shots in mind this holiday season. With *Mickey and the Gang* ($29.99); *The Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck* ($19.99); *World of the Dragonlords* ($12.99); *Christmas Parade* 3 ($8.95); *Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge* ($6.95); and *Mickey Mouse Meets Blotman* ($5.99), there's a gift for every budget.

—John Clark

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SANTA'S STORMY VISIT
Story & Art: Carl Barks
(WFGW, 1946)
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

Mickey Mouse
THE SURE CURE
Story: Michael T. Gilbert
Art: Noel Van Horn
Color: Egmont & Marie Javins
Lettering: Susie Lee

Donald Duck
SANTA'S HELPERS
Story: Lars Jensen
Art: Marco Rota
Dialogue: David Gerstein
Color: Egmont & Barry Grossman
Lettering: Willie Schubert

Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Sue Kolberg

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WALT DISNEY *presents*

Donald Duck

IN

SANTA'S STORMY VISIT!

GOLLY! TOMORROW IS CHRISTMAS EVE!

DO YOU THINK SANTA WILL FIND US AWAY OUT HERE, UNCA' DONALD?

HURRY UP AND POLISH THAT BRASS, OR HE WON'T BRING YOU ANY-THING, ANYWAY!

AW, GEE! RUNNING A LIGHTHOUSE ISN'T MUCH FUN! 'SPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME!

I WISH WE COULD LET THIS POLISHING GO FOR ONE DAY, AND ROW INTO TOWN, AND LOOK AT THE PRETTY TOYS IN THE STORE WINDOWS!

DARN! I FORGOT TO ORDER PRESENTS THE LAST TIME THE SHORE BOAT WAS OUT! I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT TOMORROW, SURE! WISH I KNEW WHAT THEY WANT!

UNCA' DONALD, IF WE WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS, AND TELL HIM WHAT PRESENTS WE WANT, WILL HE BRING THEM TO US?

COULD BE! BUT FIRST HE'D HAVE TO GET THE LETTER! YOU KIDS WRITE ONE TONIGHT, AND I'LL ROW INTO TOWN TOMORROW AND MAIL IT!

WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT LITTLE PROBLEM! LOOK AT THE KIDS RUN DOWN THE STAIRS TO WRITE THEIR LETTER!

SHALL WE ASK FOR SKATES?

WHERE'LL WE SKATE IN A LIGHTHOUSE?

HOW ABOUT BOWS AND ARROWS?

MORE USELESS THAN SKATES! LET'S ASK FOR TURKEY AND PIE AND THINGS LIKE THAT! UNCA' DONALD ONLY COOKS CANNED BEANS!

THERE! OUR LIST IS MADE!

WE'LL GIVE THE LETTER TO UNCA' DONALD

AND TELL HIM TO BE SURE TO MAIL IT TO SANTA TOMORROW!

THAT NIGHT!

LUCKY ME! THIS IS A CALM NIGHT! I CAN CATCH A GOOD SLEEP AND BE RESTED FOR THE TRIP ASHORE TOMORROW!

THE LIGHT BEAM SWEEPS THE ROCKS AS CLEAN AS A STORE TOOTH! THAT'S WHAT COMES OF POLISHING THE LENS!

WAK!

A DARNED ALBATROSS IS SITTING ON THE LENS RAIL, AND I HAVE TO RUN UP 249 STEPS TO CHASE HIM OFF!

THAT'S NOT A STOVE, YOU SEA-GOIN' SAGGHEN!

YAMOOSE! WHY DON'T YOU GO SOUTH IF YOU'RE COLD?

NOW BACK DOWN — 249 STEPS!

WAK! HE'S AT IT AGAIN!

THAT PEST! AND I'D EXPECTED TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

BOTH OF US ARE GOING TO GET MIGHTY TIRED OF THIS— IF YOU INSIST!

UMM! WHY KEEP KICKING THIS BARGAIN-SIZE CROW OFF OF HERE, WHEN A LITTLE MAKIN' WITH THE BRAINS WILL SAVE A NIGHT OF PANTIN' AND PUFFIN'?

I'LL JUST STORE YOU INSIDE TONIGHT, BUZZARD BOY! YOU'LL BE WARM, AND I'LL GET SOME SLEEP!

STAY HERE TILL I FIND A CAGE FOR YOU!

THAT'S BEING A SMART PELICAN!

ATTENTION, ALL LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS IN ZONE Z! A TROPICAL HURRICANE WILL STRIKE THIS AREA BEFORE MORNING! TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS — SQUARK! BLEEP-FEEP!

A HURRICANE BEFORE MORNING! HOW'LL I GO ASHORE FOR THE KIDS' PRESENTS?...DARN THAT STATIC!

SQUAWK! WHEEK!

I HAVE IT! I'LL RADIO THE SHORE BOAT TO BRING THE PRESENTS OUT BEFORE THE STORM STRIKES! WHERE DID I PUT THE KIDS' LETTER?

SQUAWK!...

SQUARK! WHEEK!

BIFF!

BAM!

THE ALBATROSS WRECKED THE RADIO! OH, MY STARS!

GRAWK!

YOU ADDLED ORIOLE! NOW I CAN'T RADIO FOR THE KIDS' PRESENTS!

AND THAT MEANS THEY WON'T GET ANYTHING THIS CHRISTMAS BUT EMPTY STOCKINGS!

WE HEARD THAT, UNCA' DONALD!

MAYBE WE CAN WIG-WAG A MESSAGE

WITH OUR FLASH-LIGHT!

THE TOWN FOLKS ARE TOO BUSY

TO NOTICE US!

YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, BOYS!

WE HAVE TO GET OUR LETTER

TO SANTA SOMEHOW!

WE HAVE TO!

I'M GOING TO BED!

POOR LITTLE KIDS!

HOW'S THIS, UNCA' DONALD?

WE'LL TIE OUR LETTER TO THE ALBATROSS

AND SEND HIM ASHORE WITH IT! SOMEBODY'LL SEE THE LETTER AND MAIL IT!

DON'T BET ON IT, BOYS! EVEN IF SOMEONE DID MAIL THE LETTER, AND SANTA CLAUS GOT IT, YOU STILL WOULDN'T GET THE PRESENTS BECAUSE IT'S TOO STORMY BY NOW FOR ANYONE TO DELIVER THEM!

SANTA CLAUS CAN DELIVER THEM! HE CAN DELIVER ANYPLACE!

THE IDEA OF UNCA' DONALD THINKING SANTA CAN'T REACH US!

ALL SANTA NEEDS IS OUR LETTER!

GET GOIN', ALBATROSSIE! WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU!

HEY! THE CITY'S OVER **THAT** WAY!

TOO BAD, BOYS! THE WIND IS TOO STRONG! IT'S BLOWING HIM OUT TO SEA!

WELL, ANYWAY, HE MADE A NICE TRY!

I'M GOING TO BED AND **FORGET** THIS WHOLE CHRISTMAS BUSINESS!

I WISH WE COULD FORGET!

FAR OUT AT SEA, DRIVEN BY THE HOWLING STORM, HELPLESS IN ITS FURY, THE ALBATROSS CAN BARELY HOLD BODY AND WINGS TOGETHER!

NEARER AND NEARER THE SNATCHING WAVES HE SINKS!

SUDDENLY LIGHTS APPEAR THROUGH THE DARK RAIN SQUALLS!

AHEAD OF THE ALBATROSS LOOMS THE QUEEN VERONICA!

SPLAT!

CAPTAIN

A BLOOMIN', BLITHERIN' ALBATROSS!...I'LL FEED HIM TO THE THIRD-CLASS PASSENGERS!

JUST A MOMENT, SIR! THERE'S A MESSAGE TIED TO THE FOWL!

IT'S A DISTRESS MESSAGE FROM THREE LITTLE BOYS, MAROONED IN LONELY ROCK LIGHTHOUSE! THEY'RE AFRAID THEY WON'T HAVE ANY CHRISTMAS UNLESS —

COME ABOUT AND HEAD FOR LONELY ROCK LIGHT-HOUSE! WE CAN'T LET SANTA CLAUS DOWN ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

HAVE THE PURSER FILL THIS LIST FROM THE SHIP'S STORES!

SOON!

THERE'S THE LIGHTHOUSE! SHOOT A LINE TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER, AND WE'LL PUT THIS STUFF ACROSS IN A CARGO SLING!

BOOM!

GOOD SHOOTING!

THE ALBATROSS IS RIDING OVER ON THE BOX OF PRESENTS! HE MUST LIKE IT AT THE LIGHTHOUSE!

THERE! THE LOAD'S DELIVERED, AND NOBODY IN THE LIGHTHOUSE SAW US DO IT! GOOD! TRIP THE HOOK, AND GET UNDER WAY!

THE QUEEN VERONICA FADES INTO THE MIST!

FOR TONIGHT, CAPTAIN, WE OUGHT TO RENAME THIS VESSEL THE GOOD SHIP SANTA CLAUS!

LATER THE STORM WAKENS DONALD!

IT'S REALLY ROARING OUTSIDE! I'LL HAVE TO SEE IF THE LIGHT IS BURNING!

THE ALBATROSS IS BACK! AND HE'S SITTING ON SOMETHING — LOOKS LIKE A BIG BOX!

HEAR THAT? THE ALBATROSS IS BACK!

THAT BOX! THE SIZE OF IT!... HOW DID IT GET HERE?

IT'S FROM SANTA CLAUS, OF COURSE!

AND IF YOU WANT ANY PROOF, HERE'S THE LIST WE SENT HIM, TUCKED IN A CRACK!

WELL, THE KIDS HAVE A REALLY WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS, BUT UNCA' DONALD HAS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND!

BUZZARD BOY, I COULD LOVE THAT SMUG SMIRK ON YOUR FACE IF YOU'D ONLY OPEN UP AND TELL ME HOW YOU GOT THAT BOX TO THE TOP OF THIS LIGHTHOUSE!

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Walt Disney's

MICKEY MOUSE in The Sure Cure

HICCUPS! DON'T YOU HATE 'EM?

NO TALKING IN THE LIBRARY (ESPECIALLY NO HICCUPS!)

SAY, MICK, CAN YA KEEP IT DOWN? I'M TRYIN' TA BRUSH UP ON THE *CLASSICS!*

-HIC!-

-HIC!-

-HIC!-

-HIC!- SORRY, GOOFY! I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET RID OF THESE *HICCUPS!*

WELL, USE A LITTLE *SELF CONTROL!* Y'R JUST TOO DARNED NOISY-

Little Red Riding Hood

WATCH OUT, GOOFY! -HIC!-

CRASH!

HEH! SORRY ABOUT THE -HIC!- *RUCKUS,* SIR...

-AND *STAY*

SEE, I TOLDJA YOU WAS TOO *NOISY!*

CLIP

HI, FELLAS! WHY SO GLUM?

CHILI CHARLIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

IT'S THESE PESKY HICCUPS, HORACE! →HIC!← THEY'RE STICKING TO ME LIKE HONEY ON HORSE-HAIR!

YEAH, AND THEY WON'T GO AWAY, EITHER! WE EVEN GOT KICKED OUTTA THE LIBRARY ON ACCOUNT OF 'EM!

WELL, OL' HORACE HAS GOT A SURE CURE! TAKE SIX *CHILI PEPPERS*, MIX IN SOME *MUSTARD*, A TOUCH OF *TABASCO*...

WISSS!

VOILA! DRINK UP, MICKEY!

GEE, HORACE, IT SURE LOOKS *POTENT!*

I'LL PROBABLY REGRET THIS, BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY!

→GLUG-GLUG!←

SAY, THAT WASN'T NEARLY AS HOT AS I-

YEOW!

WATER! WATER!!

OBOY! MY SPLASH THERAPY *SOAKED* TH' HICCUPS RIGHT OUTTA HIM!

YOUR CURE?! *MY* SURE-FIRE TABASCO COCKTAIL *BURNED* 'EM AWAY!

IT WAS MY CURE, I TELL YA!

NO, MINE!

=HIC!=

YOUR CURE!

YOURS!

LATER—

CHEER UP, PAL! WE'LL FIND SOME WAY TA GET RID OF THOSE HICCUPS!

=HIC!=

DID SOMEONE SAY HICCUPS?

MUSCLES McGURK! WHAT DO YOU WANT? =HIC!=

MERELY TO SHARE MY WISDOM, MOUSE! I GOT ME A SURE CURE FOR HICCUPS.

WHAT YOU GOT IS A PESKY AIR BUBBLE STUCK INSIDE YA! MY JOLTING SHAKER TREATMENT WILL DISCOMBOBULATE IT RIGHT OUT!

GAWRSH! HOW DOES THAT WORK?

LIKE THIS!

FLIP!

DON'T THANK ME--IT WAS *MY* PLEASURE, MOUSE! HAR HAR!

THAT "CURE" OF YOURS IS WORSE THAN THE AILMENT, MUSCLES! BUT MY HICCUPS DO SEEM TO HAVE--

=HIC!=

=OOOOH!=

THAT'LL TEACH YOU T' GO AROUND *FLIPPING* PEOPLE FOR NO GOOD REASON, YA BIG LUG!

RELAX, MICKEY! BETCHA ONE OF OUR FRIENDS HAS A SURE CURE YOU AIN'T TRIED YET!

YOU SAID IT, GOOFY!

DONUTS ON THE TONGUE WILL *SWEETEN* THE HICCUPS RIGHT OUT OF YOU, MICKEY! TAKE SIX OF THESE AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING!

POLICE

=MPHH! HIC!=

MY "TOTALLY TOXIC" PERFUME WILL *SMELL* THE HICCUPS RIGHT OUT OF YOU, MICKEY! IT'S A *SURE CURE!*

BLECCH! =HIC!=

NOTHING LIKE ITCHING POWDER TO HELP *SCRATCH* THOSE HICCUPS RIGHT OUT OF YOU, MICKEY!

OOOK! =HIC!=

TAKE IT FROM ME, MICKEY--MY GIANT PYTHON WILL *SQUEEZE* THE HICCUPS RIGHT OUT OF YOU! IT'S A *SURE CURE!*

ZOO

YAAAA! NOT IN *MY* =HIC!= LIFETIME!

WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! -HIC!-

SAY, I JUST THOUGHT OF ANOTHER SURE CURE I HEARD ABOUT ONCE!

KEEP OUT!

EVERYONE'S SCARED OF TH' DARK. THIS'LL *SPOOK* TH' HICCUPS RIGHT OUTTA YA, GUARANTEED!

BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING! -HIC!-

HEY, YOU! C'MERE!

HOLD THAT POSE, MICK! I'LL BE BACK IN THREE HICS!

CONDR

DANGER

CAN'T YA *READ*, LAMEBRAIN? NO VISITORS ALLOWED!

GAWRSH, WE WAS TOO BUSY TRYIN' TO GET RID OF MICKEY'S *HICCUPS* TO SEE THE SIGN! SORRY, MA'AM!

HICCUPS, EH? TRY *SALAD OIL!* IT'LL *SLIDE* 'EM RIGHT OUTTA-

OOPS!

NOW LOOK WHATCHA DONE! BOY, AM I GONNA GET IN TROUBLE!

CREAK!

-HIC!-

WHAT'S EVERYONE STARING AT?

SOME IDIOT'S STANDING UNDER A *WRECKING BALL* WITH A BAG OVER HIS HEAD! HE'S GONNA GET *CLOBBERED!*

-HIC!- EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, SOMEONE'S GOT ANOTHER SO-CALLED "SURE CURE"! THESE HICCUPS ARE TURNING INTO ONE BIG -HIC!- HEADACHE!

OH, NO! I CAN'T LOOK!

MICKEY!

UH-OH! NOW WHAT?!

KWOOSH!

AAAHH!

AND TO THINK I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HICCUPS!

WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO HELP! -GULP!-

WHAM!!

LEMME OUTTA HERE!!

GAWRSH, HOW COME YOU AIN'T SQUASHED?

SHEER *LUCK*, I'D SAY! I BARELY MADE IT TO THE DOORWAY!

OH, MICKEY, I WAS SO **SCARED!**

YOU AND ME BOTH! BUT I THINK MY HICCUPS ARE FINALLY **GONE!**

SO WHAT D'YA THINK OF MY FAMOUS **WRECKING-BALL** CURE?

NOT BAD! A LITTLE **EXTREME**, BUT AT LEAST WE FINALLY GOT RID OF MICKEY'S--

=HIC!=

I GIVE UP! HIS HICCUPS ARE **INCURABLE!**

=HIC! HIC! HIC!=

I DON'T GET IT! WHY ARE YOU **SMILING?** NONE OF THE CURES WORKED!

WHO CARES?! =HIC!= AFTER SURVIVING ITCHING POWDER, CHILI PEPPERS, SNAKES, AND FALLING BUILDINGS...

..HICCUPS ALMOST FEEL LIKE **FUN!** =HIC!=

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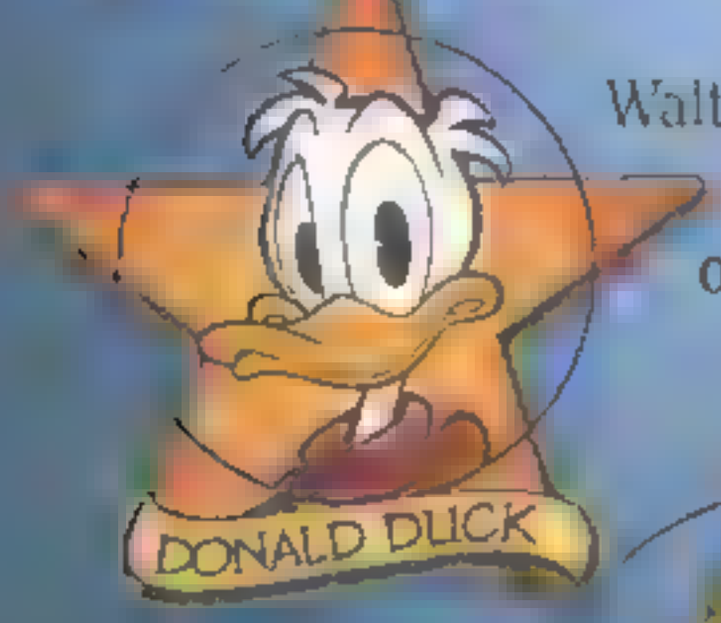

Walt Disney's Donald Duck in Santa's Helpers

'T IS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS! AND ALL DUCKBURG RINGS MERRY WITH PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO— UH, OH!

NO FAIR CANCELLING OUR BIG FAMILY DINNER, UNCA DONALD!

WHO WANTS TO GOBBLE TURKEY ALL BY OURSELVES?

I DO, KIDS! I'M DOGGONE TIRED OF OUR SOCIAL WHIRL!

D 2001-002

DAISY'S A NAG! GLADSTONE'S A JERK! UNCLE SCROOGE WOULD SICKEN DICKENS!

GYRO GETS WEIRDER EVERY DAY, AND .

BOOMP

WHAZZAT?

IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE!

LET'S GO GRAB AN EYEFUL!

JUMPIN' JINGLE BELLS! THAT'S .

SANTA CLAUS!

WITH A HO-HO-HORRIBLE SPRAINED ANKLE, LADS!

IT'S MY FAULT FOR SLIPPING AND *FALLING* OFF YOUR *ROOF!* †GROAN!‡

THE ROOF *I* FORGOT TO *DE-ICE!*

†GULP!‡ UH.. C'MON INSIDE AND REST UP! BY DAWN YOU'LL BE FIT FOR FIGHT!

BUT NOT FOR A FIGHT WITH *ANGRY KIDS WORLDWIDE,* DONALD!

IF I REST NOW, MY *PRESENTS* WILL NEVER GET DELIVERED BY *MIDNIGHT!* THINK OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS...

THINK OF *ME,* MISTER JOLLY OLD ELF! I'LL GRAB MY SANTA SUIT FROM THE ATTIC AND—

TAKE MY PLACE? NAY, LAD! TOO RISKY! BUT...I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMEONE WHO *CAN!*

AND SO...

THE GIFTS *MUST* GO OUT BEFORE *MIDNIGHT,* EASTER BUNNY! UNDERSTAND?

GEE, SANTA! IT AIN'T LIKE I NEED *HELP!*

NOW LET'S SEE! DO I *HIDE* THE PRESENTS IN FOLKS' GARDENS, OR JUST SORTA *THROW* 'EM THERE?

ER... BUNNY, PERHAPS YOU *COULD* DO WITH A LITTLE *AID!* DONALD, WOULD—

OBOY!

...YOU LIKE TO TAG ALONG AND, ER...

HELP YOU BY HELPING THE BUNNY? DARN RIGHT! I'VE DREAMED OF THIS JOB SINCE DUCKLINGHOOD!

BYE, UNCA DONALD! BE CAREFUL!

CAREFUL? WHAT COULD GO *WRONG?* FORGET ABOUT ME AND GO CANDY THE YAMS!

LOOKY HERE! I FOUND SANTA'S LIST IN A POCKET, AN' ALL BUT *THREE* NAMES ARE CHECKED OFF!

SO *WE* ONLY GOT THREE *HOMES* TO DELIVER TO!

CHILD'S PLAY FOR DONALD DUCK!

JOB ONE .DELIVER A DOLLHOUSE *HERE!* AND TO THINK SANTA WAS *WORRIED!*

OKEY-DOKE! DOWN THE CHIMNEY, DON!

YOU FIRST! IT'S DIRTY AS A WARTHOG!

HEY! DID *DIRT* STOP *SANTA* BEFORE *TOWELS* WERE INVENTED?

BEFORE *WHAT?!* WHO TAUGHT YOU HISTORY?

GEE, DON! NO NEED TO GET MAD! I'LL GO FIRST IF YA WANT ME TOOOOOOOPS!

BIFF!

UGH!

WHOOF!

SPLAT!

:NNGH!: FIT ALREADY, YOU DOLLHOUSE, YOU!

I NEVER HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH EGGS!

TROMP! TROMP!

WHAT'S KEEPIN' THAT THING?! I'M GETTING OLD DOWN HERE!

NO LONGER, PAL!

THUD!

MOM! SOUNDS LIKE KITTY'S AFTER THE HAMSTER!

OOOH, I'LL KILL THAT CAT!

:WHOLP!: FEET, DO YOUR LEGENDARY THING!

OOPS!

CRUNCH!

:ULP!: I BROKE IT! WHAT TO DO?

WAIT A MINUTE! I THINK I KNOW!

NOW SCRAM AWAY, SCRAM AWAY, SCRAM AWAY ALL!

IT WASN'T KITTY! IT WAS *SANTA!*

WITH A *PRESENT!* WHAT'S THAT SIGN SAY?

IBSEN BRAND DOLL'S HOUSE

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

HOOP-DE-DOO! HOUSE NUMBER TWO!

PLEASE LET THE PRESENT FIT THE CHIMNEY!

THE *DOGHOUSE DOOR,* YOU MEAN!

DOGHOUSE?!

YUP! BRUTUS GETS A BIG BONE FOR HAVIN' BEEN A GOOD DOGGIE ALL YEAR!

"A GOOD DOGGIE"! I'M GETT NG SICK!

YOICKS!

GRROWL!

HEAAALP!

AOOOOH!

MUST WE GIVE IT TO HIM? CAN'T WE THROW IT AT HIM?

FIE, DONALD!

TH' HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME TO LOVE YOUR FELLOW CRITTERS! WE DELIVER THIS BONE LIKE GENTLEMEN, OR NOT AT ALL!

FORGET IT, MAC! THIS IS WHERE I DRAW THE LINE!

NO PROBLEM!

I'LL DO IT MYSELF! W TH THESE HANDY-DANDY STILTS...

?!

EASY AS PIE! :YUK! YUK!:

NOW THAT'S CHEATING!

GRRR!

:WAAOH!: GENTLEMAN GOING DOWN!

GRRRUMPH!

:UNGH!:

GRATCH!

YOUR OWNERS OUGHTTA BE ASHAMED OF YOU! BUT THEY'RE PROBABLY MEAN OL' PSYCHOPATHS TOO!

NEXT YEAR, I HOPE THAT DOG GETS A *MUZZLE!*

THIRD HOUSE!

REAL NARROW CHIMNEY TH S TIME!

DIRTY, TOO!

WELL, I GAVE TH' LAST GIFT! MUST BE *YOUR* TURN NOW!

FORGET IT, LONG EARS! I'M STILL COUGHING SOOT FROM AN HOUR AGO!

YOU CLIMB DOWN THE SMOKESTACK WHILE I PREP THE--

HUH?

DING-DONG!

WHAT THE BLAZES?!

CUT THE R NGING, HAREBRAIN! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY *SECRET*, LIKE CIA SPOOKS!

BUT WE *ALSO* GOTTA GET *INSIDE*! WHEN THE OWNER COMES OUT, I'LL HIDE WHILE YOU SLIP IN BEHIND H.M!

SNORT! DOES THE PHRASE SILENT NIGHT' MEAN ANYTHING TO.

HEY! WHERE'D YOU GO? COME OUT AND GET CLOBBERED!

WAK! I'M *SLIPPING* WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT!

OWF!

OOMPH!

GRAK GRK!

YO, BUDDY! WHATCHA DO TA MY *BROTHER*, HUH?

ER..

OH, A *WISE* GUY! SAY HELLO TO *PAIN*, "SANTA"!

GLEEP!

GLOMP!

QUICK, BEFORE THEY WAKE UP! WE GOTTA DELIVER THE *PRESENTS!*

ROWF! ROWF!

SOUNDS LIKE TAX MEN! GIT THE RIFLE, MAW!

FORGET THE PRESENTS, THUMPER! TIME TO BEAT FEET! IT'S GETTING CROWDED OUT HERE!

SOMEONE'S *KNOCKED OUT* B FF AN' GORDON!

I'LL FIND TH' GUY WHUT DONE IT AN' WRING HIS NECK!

DONALD, WE *GOTTA* LET THEM HAVE THEIR *PRESENTS!*

ALL RIGHT ALREADY!

BOM

WELL, THAT WAS THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LIST, SO.

BLEEP!

WAIT A MINUTE! MY CELL PHONE'S RING-ING!

DONALD DUCK, SUBSTITUTE SANTA!

WHAT THE BLITZEN ARE YOU DOING?! MY PEOPLE TELL ME YOU'RE *WAY* BEHIND SCHEDULE!

MIDNIGHT'S GETTING CLOSER BY THE SECOND, AND THERE ARE TWO *BILLION* GIFTEES LEFT!

TWO *HOW* MANY?

WHADDAYA KNOW! HERE'S *ANOTHER LIST!*

GIDDAP!

FIRST STOP MALI! THAT'S, UH...

", IN AFRICA, RIGHT?"

WHEW! THIS HEAT IS UNBEARABLE! BUT MAYBE IT'S COOLER OUTSIDE--

WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

CRASH!

I THINK WE ZGGED WHEN WE SHOULDA ZAGGED! *THAT* DAME DIDN'T REALLY *NEED* A STOVE!

DON'T WORRY, DONALD! WE'LL JUST GIVE *HER* GIFT TO THE WOULD-BE STOVE-OWNER! SIMPLE, HUH?

:BRRR!: IT'S NO PICNIC RUNNING AN ANTARCTIC WEATHER BUREAU!

DECEMBER 25...SUB-ZERO! DECEMBER 24. SUB-ZERO! IF ONLY SANTA BRINGS THAT *STOVE* I ASKED FOR—

THKUNG

!

ICE MAKER

TWO BILLION PRESENTS IS A LOT OF WRAPPING PAPER! BUT WITH SOME YULETIDE MAGIC, OUR BOYS FINISH JUST AS MIDNIGHT STRIKES!

I'VE GOT THAT DUCK SEASON FEELING!

RABBIT SEASON!

I HOPE IT'S STILL *DINNER* SEASON! I COULD EAT A FIR TREE!

COME IN AND REST THOSE FEET, LADS! YOU *DESERVE* IT!

YOU WERE *RIGHT*, UNCLE SCROOGE! THAT SLEIGH *IS* PARKED NEXT TO DONALD'S HOUSE!

WHO'S AT THE DOOR *THIS* TIME?

I'M EXPECTING THE TOOTH FAIRY ANY MINUTE NOW!

RRIINNG

YE *CATS*— I MEAN, H-HI, GANG! LOOK, ABOUT THAT DINNER I CANCELLED.

BELAY THE DINNER, NEPHEW! WE SAW THOSE REINDEER OUTSIDE! I TAKE IT *YOU* DELIVERED OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AN HOUR AGO?

UH-OH! ELF HOTLINE!

BLEEPITY-BLEEP!

...THANKS, HERMEY!... BUNNY, DONALD—YOU DID *BAD*! HALF THE WORLD'S *COMPLAINING*!

:GULP!:

:GULP!:

COUNT *ME* IN! I ASKED FOR PERFUME, NOT *COLOGNE*!

OUR DOLLS MISSED THE CHIMNEY AND LANDED IN A PUDDLE--

ENOUGH, ALREADY!

SANTA!

SO DONALD AND THE BUNNY AREN'T PERFECT! *HRUMPH!* THEY ***STILL TRIED*** TO SAVE CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS... WHEN THEY ***COULD*** HAVE STAYED HOME, THINKING ONLY OF THEM-SELVES!

THEY WERE KIND AND UNSELFISH, AND YOU REPAY THEM WITH A BAWLING-OUT! I SEE NOW WHY DONALD CANCELLED THAT DINNER... FOR ***SHAME!***

MY STARS! WE ***HAVE*** BEEN UNGRATE-FUL!

CHRISTMAS AIN'T ***REALLY*** ABOUT THE PRESENTS, NOHOW! IT'S MORE ABOUT... JUST ***BEIN' THERE*** FOR LOVED ONES!

LIKE DONALD!

LIKE ANYONE, DEAR DUCKS, WHO CAN GATHER AT THE TABLE AND ***TRUTHFULLY*** SAY, "MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ***ALL...***"

AND TO ***ALL***, A GOOD NIGHT!

The End

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Timing, as they say, is everything! What might be complete success at one point in time, he says waxing philosophically, could be utter failure at another. Could this universal truth be better illustrated than by the book-ended entries of *Donald Duck and Friends* 331? In 1944's Carl Barks classic, "Camera Crazy," Don's plans to sell dramatic news photos are foiled by his being too close to his subjects (and thus ruining the picture or becoming entangled in the event) and the all-but-assured lack of film in the camera. If this tale took place six decades in the "future"—A.K.A. our "present"—the duck would likely avail himself of a digital camera with a telephoto lens. Problem solved!

Conversely, in our modern misadventure, "You Can Run But You Can't Hide," our hapless hero's efforts to elude his nephews for a day are thwarted by biker clubs, contemporary water-jetting statuary, and the omnipresent broadcasting eyes of the media... none of which would have hindered his hiding in 1944.

So, the great package that is *DD&F* 331 becomes greater still once one considers that simply switching the time periods of the two main stories might very well have resulted in success for Donald, rather than his typical failure. Yessir, be it sixty minutes or sixty years... it's all in the timing!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

Stefan Petrucha must have had loads of fun writing "Gliquid" (*DD&F* 331). Not only was he able to bring back Krankle Gorb and company, but he got to depict the corporate spies of Inky Black Inc. as stereotypical sun-glassed, trench-coated nogoodniks who boldly proclaim the location of their "Secret Lab" to the world. After scripting for such convoluted, conspiracy-laced titles as *The X-Files* and *Kolchak the Night Stalker*, this must have come as a welcome breather for Petrucha.

The fortuitous origin of "Gliquid" appears to owe something to that legendary lab accident that turned a mild-mannered police scientist into the Silver Age Flash. In Volker Reiche's Donald Duck story, "The Soul of Science," published by Gladstone in the 1980s, Donald likewise flung some chemicals together and came up with a brand-new substance. Based on their track records, you'd normally expect Mickey's melange to have been the "useful" one and Donald's concoction to have had no applications in the "real" (as opposed to children's playtime) world. In fact, as Gladstone readers will recall, exactly the opposite was true.

—Chris Barat
via email

DD&F 331 had a top-notch tale of Donald versus the nephews. Once again it is great to see the early Carl Barks ten-pagers appearing in *DD&F* while his later stories are currently appearing over in *Uncle Scrooge*. By doing this, you treat us readers to a wide variety of the Duck Man's classic stories. "Camera Crazy" really reflects Barks' animation background. This story could easily have been a theatrical cartoon short from the Walt Disney studio.

Mickey Mouse in "Gliquid" was perhaps one of the best Mickey stories in a while. The plot was not only loose and full of fun, it had a nice satirical flavor as well, concerning the competitive marketplace. It also had a nice moral, that sometimes the most obvious solution to your situation is the one thought that doesn't cross your mind.

"You Can Run But You Can't Hide" is another swell Duck *versus* the Nephews story. But more importantly, it is a great Donald *versus* himself story, as it is his own behavior (often his ego) that catches up with him in the end.

—Thor Miller
via email

What was the purpose of reprinting "Camera Crazy"? That has to be one of the most reprinted Barks ten-pagers ever, and it was reprinted last in 1998.

I liked the "Gliquid" story a lot. I was surprised at how well-paced it was for a ten-page story. "You Can Run But You Can't Hide" was a decent story as well; the artwork was really expressive. Good issue this month, thanks!

—Thad Komorowski
via email

Glad you mostly liked it, Thad. "Camera Crazy" was selected because we've been printing the ten-pagers more-or-less in order.

—John Clark

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